

The men aboard the aircraft were returning to combat zones in New Guinea after their brief rest-and-recreation known as R&R at the American Red Cross Center in Mackay. Wartime censorship and reasons of military security prevented the incident from ever being reported in the United States. It was classified until 1958.

Families of those who were killed were never informed how their loved ones perished. Information was so closely guarded they were only told their soldier died in the Pacific while fighting for their country.

Little is known of the crash outside Mackay. Remarkably, one of the 41 men aboard the aircraft survived the crash. He is Foye Kenneth Roberts of Wichita Falls, TX. At the time of the accident, it was the worst plane crash in the Southwest Pacific theater. Australians regard it as their worst aviation disaster.

In May 1992, a monument was built by local citizens at Baker's Creek to mark the B-17C crash site. Thousands of Americans soldiers spent their R&R at Mackay, and many became longtime friends of local families. When the Baker's Creek memorial was unveiled on May 11, 1992, only the names of the six aircrew and the sole survivor were known. A complete list of casualties did not exist in U.S. or Australian archives.

After extensive, painstaking research, a plague with the names of all casualties was rededicated on June 14, 1995. Their names are: Sgt. Carl A. Cunningham, T/5 George A. Ehrmann, F/0 William C. Erb, Sgt. David E. Tileston, Sgt. Dean H. Busse, Pfc. Jerome Abraham, S/Sgt. Frank E. Whelchel, S/Sgt. Lovell D. Curtis, 1/Lt. Vern J. Gidcumb, Pfc. Norman J. Goetz, T/Sgt. Leo E. Fletcher, Pfc. Frederick C. Sweet, Pfc. Kenneth W. Mann, Pfc. Charles M. Williams, Cpl. Marlin N. Metzger, Pfc. Vernon Johnson, Capt. John O. Berthold, Cpl. Charles W. Sampson, Cpl. Franklin F. Smith, Maj. George N. Powell, Pfc. Arnold Seidel, 2/Lt. Jack A. Ogren, Cpl. Jacob O. Skaggs, Jr., Pvt. James E. Finney, T/Sgt. Alfred H. Fezza, Sgt. Donald B. Kyper, Pfc. Frank S. Penska, Sgt. Anthony Rudnick, Cpl. Raymond H. Smith, T/5 William A. Briggs, Pfc. John W. Parker, Pvt. Charles D. Montgomery, S/Sgt. Charlie O. LaRue, Cpl. Foye K. Roberts (Sole Survivor) S/Sgt. Roy A. Hatlen, S/Sgt. John W. Hilsheimer, Cpl. Edward Tenny and Pfc. Dale Van Fosson. Since the Memorial's unveiling, an effort has been made to locate the final resting places of the victims, and to trace their family relatives. The search continues today.

The men who lost their lives that day and the one who survived, regarded themselves as ordinary men. We know better. They like so many before and after them, answered our Nation's call to arms. We needed them and they came. Many went, some gave all.

These men renewed for the "Greatest Generation" the cherished American

ethos of service to Nation. They came from farms and factories, from city streets and country lanes. In doing so, they transcended from ordinary men with common dreams to extraordinary citizens with uncommon valor. Their example enabled our young men and women today to take up arms when we needed them for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Regrettably, some of them made the ultimate sacrifice as well.

It is my fervent hope this June 14, along with the salute to the Army and our grand flag, that we also salute the men who gave their lives at Baker's Creek. We owe a special thanks to the Baker's Creek Memorial Association for keeping their memories alive and for helping their families discover their loved ones' fate.●

#### TRIBUTE TO SHARLA MOFFETT BEALL

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise to express my appreciation to Sharla Moffett Beall, my Fisheries, Wildlife, and Water Subcommittee staff director, as she returns to her home State of Oregon. Sharla has been an important member of my Senate staff. Her counsel and efforts will be missed.

There is no one in the Senate more knowledgeable on Endangered Species Act issues; issues of real significance to Idaho and the Nation. She has been a tireless advocate for meaningful solutions to recover endangered and threatened salmon species in the Pacific Northwest. She has helped me to lead the fight against bad policies, such as the total maximum daily load rule proposed in 2000, and for good policies, like habitat conservation plans and streamlining of the consultation process.

When I became chairman of the subcommittee, I had little doubt about who I wanted as staff director. I first worked with Sharla when she was professional staff for the House Agriculture Committee. I knew that in Sharla, I had someone experienced, professional, effective, and with a keen legislative sense. She also shared my political philosophy and passion for fish and wildlife issues.

It has also been rewarding to see Sharla start a family during her time as staff director. In her first year on my staff, she married another Oregon native, Jim Beall; during the second year, they had her first child, Anna-Sophia; and just last year a second daughter, Alexandra-Skye, was born. They are a wonderful and loving family.

The Senate has a tough time competing with two beautiful daughters. I will miss Sharla and her family. I wish them all the best, but I know this is not farewell. She will continue to be a valued friend and advisor.●

#### RECOGNITION OF WJJY-FM FOR RECEIVING THE NAB CRYSTAL RADIO AWARD

● Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to recognize a distinguished

Minnesota radio station, WJJY-FM, for winning 2003 National Association of Broadcaster's Crystal Radio Award, commending its commitment to community service.

WJJY-FM, based in Brainerd, MN, won a National Association of Broadcaster's Crystal Award, recognizing its continued charitable efforts in the Brainerd community. This award marks the third time the National Association of Broadcasters has recognized WJJY's dedication to service. The station also won a Crystal Award in 2001 and the prestigious NABEF Service to America Award in 1999.

WJJY-FM is active in charitable fundraising, supporting food drives, and providing public service announcements for the community. In 2002 the station set a fundraising record for the Brainerd area by raising \$940,500 for the community. WJJY-FM helped collect 7,500 pounds of food for the Salvation Army, gathered 1,300 clothing items for needy families, and broadcasted over 7,350 public service announcements. In addition, WJJY holds the annual Radiothon to End Child Abuse, which raised a record-setting \$66,520 in 2002.

WJJY-FM represents a tradition of corporate dedication to community service in the State of Minnesota. Since 1999, 4 Minnesota stations have received the Service to American Award, and since 1987, 17 have received Crystal Awards. This tradition of service is an important Minnesota legacy. Public-private partnerships like these are what truly get things done and leave a lasting positive impact on our state.

I would like to commend WJJY-FM for its diligent efforts to improve the community which it serves.●

#### COMMENDING COLQUITT COUNTY PACKERS FOR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

● Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the outstanding hard work, dedication, and team work of the Colquitt County High School baseball team for winning this year's State championship.

This week, the Colquitt County Packers won the Georgia High School Association's Class AAAAA State championship by a stunning victory at Ike Aultman Field, and I couldn't be more proud. This is an exceptional accomplishment not only for the team and high school, but also for the entire Colquitt County community. Winning this year's State championship was the first Packer State championship since 1997 when the team defeated Lassiter High in three games for the first baseball title in Packer history.

I am so proud of each and every team member for their great success. I am especially proud of Packer head coach Jerry Croft for his leadership, devotion, and guidance.

Because Colquitt County has been my home for over 30 years, it gives me great pleasure to share this huge accomplishment of the Packers with my